



## *Emerging Issues Subcommittee*

### *Meeting Minutes*

*January 30, 2008*

#### **Summary**

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##### Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (9):

Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)

Charles Katz (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)

Julie Treinen (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)

John Morris (Yavapai County Drug Courts)—via conference call

Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)—via conference call

Meena Shahi (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)

Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)

Mona Polacca (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)—proxy for Alida Montiel

Michelle Neitch, (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)—proxy for Phillip Stevenson

##### Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (5):

Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)

Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)

Jerry Boehm (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)

Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)

Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)

##### Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

##### Public (1):

David Choate (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)



**Call to Order** was made by Dennis Embry at 1:00 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Dennis Embry asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Judith Fritsch motioned for an acceptance of the November, 2008 meeting minutes, which contained a mistake that been amended prior to the meeting (i.e., a place in the minutes from "Judy Treinen," which should have read "Julie Treinen"); Meena Shahi seconded the motion. The amended meeting minutes were approved with no dissenters.

### **Announcements**

- Jeanne Blackburn announced that the theme of the annual substance abuse conference put on by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy for this year will be "Addressing Emerging Trends." Due to the obvious tie between the theme of the conference and the focal area of this group, she announced that the Emerging Issues Subcommittee may be called upon to provide expertise in the way of products or presentations. She informed the group that Dennis Embry has already been asked to present at this conference.
- Jeanne Blackburn also talked to the group about Open Meeting Law and the group's need to adhere to it. She indicated that she will attempt to determine before the next meeting whether the group must have a quorum present in order to meet. She also indicated that she will examine other Open Meeting Laws that pertain to the group and report back at the next meeting.
- Judith Fritsch indicated that the Arizona Department of Economic Security has begun a Community Connect E-newsletter and asked whether the group would be amenable to the Community Speak section of the newsletter containing an announcement of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee.
  - The group discussed an Emerging Issues survey that could also be included in the Community Connect newsletter.
  - Dennis Embry offered to write the description of the Subcommittee for the newsletter and route for the group's input.
  - The group also discussed the possibility of placing a description of the upcoming "Addressing Emerging Trends" substance abuse conference in the newsletter.

### **Emerging Issues Subcommittee: Activities for 2008 and Beyond**

- Jeanne Blackburn provided a work plan to the group for their review.
  - Items already listed on the document were:
    - Substance-specific reports
    - Presentations of substance abuse-specific data at appropriate conferences
    - Data request tracking for a determination of interest in substance abuse-related data
  - In addition to these items, the group indicated the need to add the following items to the work plan:



- Community survey to identify emerging trends in treatment, prevalence, prevention, and enforcement efforts
- Focus groups
- Development of environmental sensors
- Mona Polacca added that data are not available from the tribes and wanted to know what we plan to do to address this gap
  - Michelle Neitch and Chuck Katz responded to her inquiry about their previous experience with working with the tribes and indicated that:
    - Navajo Nation does its own youth survey and is not part of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
  - Mona indicated that she can bring the goals/objectives of data collection to the tribes to encourage their representation on the group and the sharing of data.
  - Dennis Embry noted that the collection of data as it relates to tribes/tribal entities is an emerging trend, as this type of data collection is a way of addressing a previously-determined gap in data collection efforts. He also noted the need to work with tribes on data collection/data sharing of emerging issues/data.
  - Chuck Katz noted that a separate Emerging Issues Subcommittee for Native American issues may be necessary and should work in concert with tribal communities.
  - Dennis Embry noted that research from the Oregon Research Institute indicates that weighting is possible for populations not widely represented, such as Native American groups.
  - Mona indicated that she feels that different players are now at the table than has been the case in the past, which she felt may help lead to different results than those achieved in the past.
    - For example, so far, 8 of the 19 tribes represented on the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona have signed on to the data capacity building project funded through the Governor's Office.
- Chuck Katz discussed the importance of political boundaries, indicating that rural counties are likely excluded from current data collection efforts.
- Judith Fritsch indicated that we need to ensure a focus on valid, key indicators.
- Resiliency was also a topic of interest among the group; specifically, the treatment needs of Gay, Lesbian, Trans-gendered, and Bisexual youth were discussed as this population does not appear to use traditional substance abuse treatment services.
- Chuck Katz noted that any projects that will require a data collection effort greater than 6 months should not be undertaken as they do not qualify as an "emerging trend" after such a length of time has elapsed.



- Julie Treinen moved that the group use the three Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections case examples that she brought to the meeting for a case study; Chuck Katz seconded the motion. The group approved the motion.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig mentioned that the group should document the process required to obtain the data on these three cases in order to show the barriers in the system. For example, a confidentiality contract between the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Tucson Unified School District, and the Arizona Department of Education will be required in order to share data on just these three examples of children in “the system.”
  - It was also mentioned that the group needs to add cost data (averages) for the services received by these three cases over their life spans in order to get an accurate view of their cost to Arizona.

#### **Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group**

- As Phillip Stevenson was not present at the meeting, the group was not updated by him on the actions of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.

#### **Discussion of Future Presentations and Template for Briefings on Emerging Trends**

- Dennis Embry provided the group with a template for future fact sheets and an example of such a fact sheet.
  - Meena Shahi indicated that the group should footnote all recommendations and think of errors that people might make when reading the information in order to combat false conclusion being made about the data.
    - The group agreed that a “Common Myths” section should be added to the fact sheets as well as a section entitled “For More Information” with contacts and links.
      - Judith Fritsch motioned that the proposed amended fact sheet template be accepted; Wendy Wolfersteig seconded the motion. The motion passed.
    - Chuck Katz and David Choate provided the group with trend data from the Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) project. They indicated that before these data are widely disseminated, several items need to be discussed and amended:
      - A regression line needs to be added.
      - The “pilot data” from the beginning of the project were reliant on a smaller N than the remainder of the data collection period. Therefore, these data will need to be removed prior to reporting.
      - Due to their support in this project, credit to should be given to Maricopa County in any use of the data.



- It was discussed that the next project taken on by the Subcommittee should involve prescription drugs, with a gerontology focus (as well as other groups who misuse prescription drugs).
  - Judith Fritsch agreed to find literature on gerontology.
  - Meena Shahi agreed to locate the Older American report and mortality/suicide data.
- Data requests made to the Arizona Department of Health Services by the Emerging Issues subcommittee should follow a standard protocol/format:
  - Meena Shahi agreed to provide a template for the data requests.
  - The Emerging Issues Subcommittee should discuss the need for a data request to be made to the ADHS for epidemiological data on substance abuse among the gerontological population (i.e., 60+ years).

#### **Future Meeting Dates and Times**

- It was decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month would work well for members to meet.
- The meeting time will be monthly from 1:00 – 3:00 in the first floor conference room of the Executive Tower if it can be arranged.
- There will be no February meeting, but monthly meetings will begin in March, 2008.

#### **Call to Public**

- No one from the public offered any input.

**Adjourn** at 3:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).